AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please substitute the following pending claims 13-22 as replacement claims for the previously-pending claims. In this Amendment, claims 13 and 17 have been amended.

Claims 1-12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently amended) A method for making a metal stent, comprising:

(a) compounding a mixture comprising at least one metal alloy and at least one polymer binder;

(b) molding the mixture to form a composite structure comprising a strut member and a supporting member, wherein the strut member comprises an element selected from the group consisting of:

(i) at least one navigation pad for exhibiting distinctive radiological image, wherein the navigation pad is integrally coupled to the strut member;

(ii) at least one drug-storing reservoir, wherein the reservoir is integrally coupled to the strut member;

(iii) a least one interlocking pad, wherein the interlocking pad is integrally coupled to the strut member; and

(iv) at least one fastening pad for attaching biological membranes to the stent, wherein the fastening pad is integrally coupled to the strut member;

(c) removing the binder from the composite structure; and

(d) sintering the composite structure ~~to achieve at least about 95% of the theoretical density of the metal alloy~~.

14. (Previously presented) The method of claim 13 further comprising removing at least a portion of the supporting member from the sintered composite structure.

15. (Previously presented) The method as in claim 13 or 14, further comprising etching the surface of the stent.

16. (Previously presented) The method as in claims 13 or 14, further comprising heating the stent to alter a surface or mechanical property of the stent.

17. (Previously presented) A method for making a modulated stent, comprising:

(a) compounding a mixture comprising at least one metal alloy and at least one polymer binder;

(b) molding the mixture to form two or more composite structures, each composite structure comprising a strut member and a supporting member, wherein each strut member comprises an element selected from the group consisting of:

(i) at least one navigation pad for exhibiting distinctive radiological image, wherein the navigation pad is integrally coupled to the strut member;

(ii) at least one drug-storing reservoir, wherein the reservoir is integrally coupled to the strut member;

(iii) a least one interlocking pad, wherein the interlocking pad is integrally coupled to the strut member; and

(iv) at least one fastening pad for attaching biological membranes to the stent, wherein the fastening pad is integrally coupled to the strut member;

(c) removing the binder from each of the composite structures;

(d) sintering the composite structures ~~to achieve at least about 95% of the theoretical density of the metal alloy~~;

(e) aligning two or more of the composite structures on a mandrel;

(f) fastening the composite structures together to form the modulated stent; and

(g) removing the modulated stent from the mandrel.

18. (Previously presented) The method as in claim 17 or 20, further comprising etching the surface of the stent.

19. (Previously presented) The method as in claims 17 or 20, further comprising heat treating the stent to alter a surface or mechanical property of the stent.

20. (Previously presented) The method of claim 17, further comprising removing at least a portion of the supporting member from the sintered composite structures either before the composite structures are aligned on the mandrel or after the modulated stent is removed from the mandrel.

21. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16, further comprising placing at least one metal powder on the surface of the stent before heating.

22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 19, further comprising placing at least one metal powder on the surface of the stent before heating.